

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
2101 NASA Parkway
Houston, Texas 77058-3696



May 14, 2007

Reply to Attn of: AL-07-023

TO: Distribution

FROM: AL/Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Widely Attended Gathering Determination Regarding Attendance
of the Applied Research and Engineering Sciences (ARES)
Corporation Reception

Applied Research and Engineering Sciences (ARES) Corporation will be hosting a reception on Monday, May 14, 2007, from 5:30 p. m. to 7:30 p. m. at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Chicago Hotel during the International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety Conference.

ARES is a privately-held small business and is an engineering and technology consulting company founded in 1992. ARES has been involved in the space program performing quantitative risk assessments for the Space Shuttle, International Space Station, and is the prime contractor of Project Integration and Control for the International Space Station.

The reception will be a widely attended gathering of approximately 200 people, which includes individuals from industry, both domestic and international and government employees. This event will allow NASA invitees to further agency programs and operations by sharing ideas, disseminating information, and continuing to foster relationships with ARES and with persons in the international safety community. The reception will include appetizers and drinks which is valued at approximately \$30 per person.

I find that this reception meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA personnel in the performance of their official duties.

Therefore, NASA invitees may attend this event and accept free admission, if offered.


Bernard J. Roan

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